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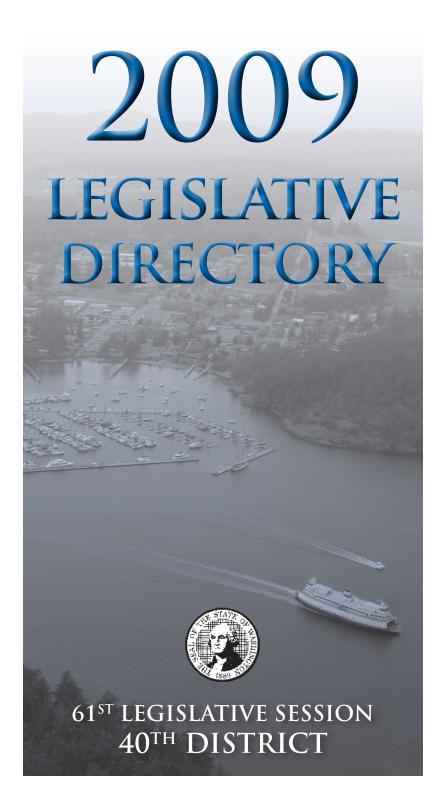


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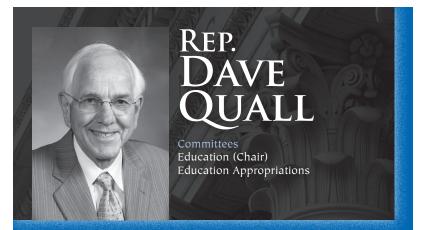
I am honored and excited to begin my first session as your representative in the State Senate. While we will have a number of very difficult issues to solve, I am optimistic that we will make progress in moving our state forward.

Our main focus as a Legislature will be finding a way to balance the state budget while at the same time ensuring that vital public services to our communities and our most vulnerable citizens aren't severely jeopardized. We also need to continue working toward strengthening our economy, protecting our environment, and supporting our schools.

I look forward to hearing your comments about the priorities important to you, and I welcome your thoughts on the issues we are considering in Olympia.

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent you.





As we begin the 2009 legislative session, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to once again serve as your state representative in Olympia. At a time when many of our families are facing tough economic times, so too is our state. We face a \$6 billion revenue shortfall that will force us to scrutinize our priorities and make incredibly difficult decisions that affect us all.

But our budget situation does not diminish my commitment to funding our schools and supporting our children. During the past several months I've met with hundreds of school administrators, teachers and parents about the funding challenges in our schools. Preserving funding for critical education programs is my top priority this session.

Again, thank you for your support and for all you do to make our community and state a great place to live and raise a family.





I'm proud to serve as your representative in the State Legislature. As member of the House Leadership, helping direct each day's legislative action, I will be better able to get your thumbprint on state policy. While much of our focus this session will be on statewide challenges, I consider this position an important way to ensure the communities of Skagit, Whatcom, and San Juan counties have a greater voice in state politics.

My agenda this coming biennium will include an emphasis on greater fiscal responsibility as the state struggles through tough economic times. For several years I have also focused on key investments in new technology that provide new sources of clean energy, which promise to provide 21st century jobs and a long-term evergreen legacy for Washington's future. And, with your help, I'll work to save the Anacortes-to-Sidney run from elimination once again.

The looming budget crisis in Olympia should not keep us from looking forward. After talking with local school board members across the district I have agreed to push for an update to the 1978 definition of Basic Education. This definition determines what the State provides funding for versus what is funded through local levies. Defining basic education for this century is the most important thing we need to do as a state.

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